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An Economic Game Changer

Exciting events are happening in the State Capitol this week with the largest economic development project in state history being debated. This Thursday, I voted in favor of the proposal to help bring a historic investment from Foxconn to the state of Wisconsin. The bill passed the Wisconsin State Assembly on a bipartisan vote. This transformative, \$10 billion investment is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that is a game changer for the state's economy.

The Foxconn investment is expected to bring up to 13,000 direct jobs to our state, with an average annual salary of \$53,875. When fully operational, Foxconn's payroll will be over \$800 million annually. My Assembly Republican colleagues and I have made family-supporting careers and improving our state's business climate top priorities during the last several sessions. The approval of the Foxconn proposal is another sign that we are fulfilling these promises, and working to ensure our state's economy is continuing to head in the right direction.

Job creation as a result of this project spans far beyond 13,000 direct jobs. In fact, 22,000 indirect jobs are projected to be created in Wisconsin through the Foxconn supply chain, with \$1.4 billion annually expected to be spent in Wisconsin by Foxconn purchasing the necessary components to create high-tech liquid crystal display (LCD) screens. This money will flow to parts providers throughout the state, and Dodge County's manufacturers are well-positioned to become a part of the Foxconn supply chain, bringing more contracts for services and more jobs to the area. Before the first LCD screens ever roll out of the plant, 10,000 construction jobs will need to be filled in order to build the 20 million square foot facility, with contractors and suppliers assisting in this process from here and all corners of the state.

A development of this magnitude will also help limit the effects of the "brain drain" on our state's workforce. Currently, many Wisconsin students who graduate from one of our premier universities with degrees in engineering and computer science look out-of-state for high-paying jobs due to the lack of available positions here. Providing opportunities in a high tech field within Wisconsin will help to reduce the "brain drain" and encourage more of our youth who graduate from Wisconsin universities to remain near where they grew up to raise their own families.

The Foxconn investment is the culmination of six years of important reforms enacted by Republican leadership in Madison. Our continued efforts to lower the state's tax burden has helped all Wisconsinites. Initiatives like right-to-work, creating the manufacturing and agricultural tax credit, and removing duplicative and outdated regulations have helped attract businesses and grow the state's economy. They also put Wisconsin



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on Foxconn's radar. Without these critical changes, a huge investment by a company like Foxconn would have never been possible. Conservative leadership has set up this state to succeed now, and helped transform the economy for generations to come.

As I continue to serve you in the Wisconsin State Assembly, my goal is to keep the promises I have made. The Foxconn investment is one I am proud to support, because it is helping to fulfill the promise of bringing more family-supporting careers to Wisconsin and Dodge County. By doing so, we are making our state and region a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Rep. Mark Born resides in Beaver Dam and represents the 39th District in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

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